Monday, August 31, 2009

Stakeholder Consultation

Effective September 2009, School Technology Branch will be making some changes to its stakeholder consultation process. Jurisdiction Technology Contact (JTC) events will become the primary means of consultation, and short-term working groups will be used as needed to consult on emergent issues in a timely manner. Both the School Technology Advisory Council (STAC) and Technology Advisory Group (TAG) will be discontinued as part of this evolution. Stakeholder organizations who were formerly members of STAC will be invited to attend JTC events, and will be included on working groups where appropriate.

Changes to JTC and the addition of issue-specific working groups are intended to make better use of stakeholders' time and effort. These changes will also enable School Technology Branch to solicit feedback from a broader group of stakeholders. Wherever possible and appropriate, any working groups that are initiated will incorporate technology-mediated options for meetings and collaboration in order to reduce time and travel burden for participants.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Bette Gray, Director, School Technology Branch, at Bette.Gray@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-427-1509.

School Technology Branch Staffing Update

School Technology Branch has seconded Ralph Luedtke as an Education Manager for the Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning project. A former junior high teacher, Ralph taught science and math prior to joining the Greater St. Albert Catholic Regional Division central office team as technology director where he supported teachers in the integration of technology.

Ralph has also worked as a program manager in Alberta Education's Learning Technologies Branch, focusing on the planning, coordination and management of projects associated with the development of digital learning resources. He was also involved in supporting strategic and operational planning, the procurement and management of contracts and consultation with both internal and external stakeholders.

Ralph can be reached at Ralph.Luedtke@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-427-6961.

Emerge 2010 Summit

Vol. 9 No. 1

Tech.News is an electronic newsletter for Alberta's education community. It is produced by Alberta Education, School Technology Branch.

Send your questions, suggestions, or article submissions to tech.news@gov.ab.ca

Next edition: September 2009

LINKS:

Alberta Education - Technology section

Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning

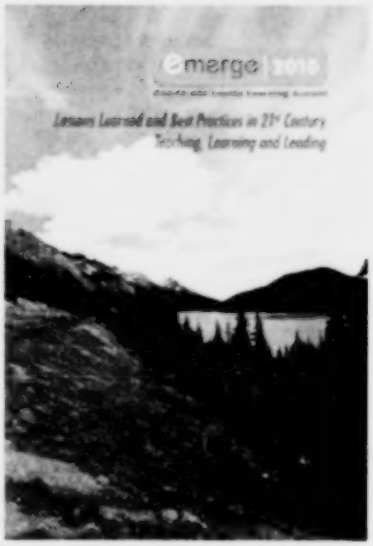
Technology and High School Success

Supporting Innovative Classrooms

LearnAlberta.ca

Who should participate in EMERGE 2010?

The target audience for the Emerge Summit is the K-12 education community including leaders, teachers, technical support directors, policy makers and researchers. Emerge participants have an interest in advancing their skills and knowledge in the implementation of one-to-one laptop learning and in fostering 21st century teaching and learning. There will be independent streams for leaders, teachers and technical managers.



What can participants expect from EMERGE 2010?

The summit will feature leading-edge keynotes, hands-on workshops, interactive concurrent demonstrations, discussions with key one-to-one and 21st Century education leaders and researchers, an educational technology exhibit, and lots of networking and social activities.

Participants can expect to learn and network and also experience Canada's largest mountain range in the heart of the Rockies at the Banff Centre.

For more information on the summit, visit http://emerge2010.galileonetwork.ca/home

Call for Presenters

Presenters are required in four categories. The deadline for submission is October 30, 2009.

Presentation Categories:

1. **Teaching and Learning** – a demonstration of best practices involving one-to-one laptops or others innovative technologies used for teaching and learning.

2. **Leading Innovation** – leadership practices, programs or professional development to support and sustain one-to-one laptop learning and a blend of technologies.

3. **Research** – lessons learned from programs, practices, and/or activities/events in sound educational implementation.

4. **Technical Practices** – practices or policies related to the technical aspects of supporting one-to-one technologies (eg. Supporting student-owned devices, new network architectures and solutions, secure yet flexible networks, technology governance models).

To access the Call for Presentations form, or for more information, visit http://www.2learn.ca/EMERGE2010/CallforPresenters.asp

Alberta's International Space Station Event

Students from Palliser Regional Schools will have a chance to speak directly to astronauts aboard the International Space Station this fall. The event will be hosted from County Central High School in Vulcan, and will feature Canadian Space Agency astronaut Dr. Robert Thirsk answering science and technology-related questions from participating students in real time.

All Alberta schools will be able to watch the event live through a live Internet stream and through Shaw cable. Due to the nature of the event, the date and time is yet to be confirmed. Information on how to access the live stream of the event and the broadcast times will be available on the Alberta's International Space Station event's website at http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/csa.aspx.

Upcoming Events

Jurisdiction Technology Contact Events 2009/2010

November 23, 2009 (Edmonton)
May 19, 2010 (Calgary)

These events are open to Jurisdiction Technology Contacts and invited guests only.

Webcast Supporting Alberta Arts Days

Alberta Arts Days, September 18-20, is an opportunity for all Albertans to celebrate Alberta artists and demonstrate strong community spirit. Alberta Education Minister Dave Hancock has issued a challenge to all Alberta schools to find innovative and creative ways to celebrate the arts in classrooms or schools on September 18.

The Tyrell Museum is hosting a special, free webcast of its most popular Distance Learning Program, *Up Close & Palaeo*, on Friday, September 18 at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. in celebration of Alberta Arts Days. Until noon on September 17, teachers and students are encouraged to submit questions about palaeontology, dinosaurs and palaeo-art by accessing the event link on www.tyrellmuseum.com. Then, on September 18, classes can log onto the Museum's website and join schools across the province to discover more about Alberta's prehistoric past.

More information about Arts Days as well as resources and ideas to help plan Arts Days events are available at: education.alberta.ca/artsdays.

Inspiring Education Update

What are your hopes, dreams and aspirations? For your children and grandchildren? If we are to be successful individually and collectively as a province, we need to consider how to help all Albertans realize their potential. *Inspiring Education: A Dialogue with Albertans* is an opportunity to shape the future of education in Alberta and we want to hear your perspective. Tell us your story. Share your opinions. Join the conversation!

Inspiring Education is different from a public consultation. It's a dialogue – an exchange of ideas to change each other's thinking about what education is and what education means. It's about looking to the future and deciding what education in Alberta should be in twenty years. No matter who you are or where you live in Alberta, we invite you to listen and contribute to the conversation. One of the primary goals is to reach a clear understanding of what it will mean to be an educated Albertan 20 years from now. To reach that goal we need everyone's voice.

More information is available on the Inspiring Education website www.inspiringeducation.alberta.ca or by contacting inspiring.education@gov.ab.ca.

Research Articles

Learning in the 21st Century: 2009 Trends Update

http://www.blackboard.com/resources/k12/Bb_K12_09_TrendsUpdate.pdf

Project Tomorrow®, an American education non-profit organization, in collaboration with Blackboard Inc. has tracked the growing student demand for online learning and how schools are meeting that demand. The initial report, *Learning in the 21st Century: A National Report of Online Learning* analyzed trends from 2006 Speak Up survey data and was followed by a trends update on the 2007 Speak Up data. The 2009 Trends Update examines Speak Up survey data collected online in fall 2008 from more than 335,000 K-12 students, teachers, administrators, and parents across the United States.

STATISTICS CANADA: Canadian Social Trends. August 2009 online edition http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2009002/article/10910-eng.pdf

This article examines how Canadian seniors (those aged 65 and older) use the Internet compared with baby boomers (those aged 45 to 64). It looks at the closing gap between Internet use rates, and describes differences in the types of online activities, as well as in the intensity of Internet use.

LearnAlberta.ca Updates

Distribution of new Jurisdictional User Names and Passwords

New jurisdiction user names and passwords for the 2009/2010 school year were distributed by e-mail to school principals and jurisdiction technology contacts on August 17, 2009. Students, teachers and parents accessing LearnAlberta.ca require the new jurisdictional username and password to access licensed resources and to create personal accounts.

Both old and new jurisdiction passwords will be effective until September 30, 2009. Individuals who have created a personal account must update the jurisdiction password in their personal profile (found under the *My Workspace* tab on the website) by September 30, 2009 to avoid an interruption in access to their account.

To assist with this system update please share the jurisdictional username and password in a confidential manner with teachers, teacher-librarians, students and parents as soon as possible in the school year to allow for maximum benefit from LearnAlberta.ca.

Schools that share this information via a school newsletter need to ensure that, prior to posting the newsletter on a public website, the user name and password information is removed. Providing this information on a public website would be in violation of provincial licensing agreements of many of the resources delivered via LearnAlberta.ca and could result in LearnAlberta.ca having to remove valuable resources from the site due to such violations.

Any questions about this user name and password renewal process can be sent to learnalberta.feedback@edc.gov.ab.ca.

Recent LearnAlberta.ca design and content

The following changes to the website were released over the summer:

- Changes to sign in designed to help users know when they are signed in to the website and the type of account they are currently using.
- The addition of several new visual elements including:
    - 'Locks' displayed beside resource titles, which allow users to see resources that are available with their current sign in status. Selecting a secure, or locked, resource will open a sign-in window.
    - Thumbnail images that represent each of the databases available via the Online Reference Centre component of the website. These images will assist younger students with finding or recognizing specific types of information available in this area of the website.
- New resources and programs of study are added regularly with particular emphasis on programs that are being implemented provincially in the 2009/2010 school year.

Tools4Teachers Updates

Tools4Teachers Updates

New Resources

Distributed learning resources for the following courses will be posted on theTools4Teachers site for September 2009 implementation:

- Mathematics 2
- Mathematics 8
- Social Studies 9
- Social Studies 20-1
- Social Studies 20-2
- Social Studies 30-1
- Social Studies 30-2
- Biology 30
- Chemistry 30
- Physics 30
- CTS Information Processing
- CTS Financial Management

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